

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD and REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

The mission of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

Water Rights

SWRCB Goal 4: Water resources are fairly and equitably used and allocated consistent with public trust.

Water rights involve the equitable allocation of water for urban, agricultural, and environmental interests. The water rights program authorizes the diversion and/or storage of surface waters for the benefit of California's residents, its environment, and its economy.

Accomplishments

1. **CALFED Bay-Delta Program:** The SWRCB adopted a resolution finding that three proposed Sacramento Valley water management projects are consistent with the 1995 Bay-Delta Plan and the Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act. (This finding is required before the Department of Water Resources can approve the projects' funding). The SWRCB executive director, Celeste Cantu, approved a plan protecting water users in the southern San Joaquin Delta from lower water levels when the Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation use one another's pumps in the Delta (joint point pumping).
2. **Water Transfer From Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority:** The SWRCB completed hearings on the Imperial Irrigation District's amended water rights petition requesting approval of a long-term transfer of water to the San Diego County Water Authority and for the long-term transfer to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Coachella Valley Water District.
3. **Report on Groundwater and Water Rights Decisions:** Joseph Sax, a law professor at the UC Berkeley and a highly regarded water law expert, completed a review in January of whether groundwater can be considered a subterranean stream, as it pertains to water rights decisions. The SWRCB asked Sax to conduct the study after the groundwater issue was raised in a proceeding on the San Luis Rey River, San Diego County. Sax found that it was the Legislature's intent to ensure that no groundwater transfer could occur that would "directly" or "appreciably" affect surface stream flows. He also concluded that such decisions could not be made solely on geologic or physical characteristics, and suggested that the

SWRCB interpret its water right permitting authority to consider impacts on surface streams of groundwater diversions. Water development interests opposed the recommendations, saying the recommendations would greatly expand the SWRCB authority on the matter. The SWRCB announced in the spring of 2002 that it would not adopt the professor's recommendations and would instead continue to use its "bed and banks" test in determining the legal classification of groundwater. This test relies more on the physical properties of the subsurface and whether conditions exist that would suggest a channel that confines the groundwater.

Priorities

1. **Bay-Delta Program:** The SWRCB will hold the last workshop in September to review progress and receive reports from the parties attempting a settlement agreement instead of a future SWRCB decision on related Sacramento Basin issues.
2. **San Luis Rey River Water Right Applications:** During the second half of 2002, the SWRCB will issue a decision on whether it has jurisdiction over groundwater extractions.
3. **Imperial Irrigation District Transfer:** The SWRCB will issue and consider adopting a draft water right decision on a proposed transfer from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Coachella Valley Water District. The proposed transfer is a key provision regarding the Colorado River. California is now under an obligation to cut back its use of Colorado River water from 5.2 million acre-feet to 4.4 million acre-feet. The SWRCB cannot adopt a final order until a final California Environmental Quality Act document is certified. The hearings are over. The public comment period will be in the fall. A decision may be made next year.
4. **North Bay Aqueduct Water Rights Hearing:** The SWRCB will hold a hearing on water rights applications filed by the cities of Vacaville, Fairfield, and Benicia in the fall of 2002. The cities propose to divert water through the Department of Water Resources' North Bay Aqueduct. The cities claim area of origin (the Area of Origin Law protects local area water from export) and municipal preference to the water they want to divert.

Clean Beaches

Cal/EPA Goal 2: Rivers, lakes, estuaries and marine waters that are fishable, swimmable, support healthy ecosystems and other beneficial uses.

SWRCB Goal 6: Water quality is comprehensively measured to evaluate protection and restoration efforts.

Bacteria from urban and stormwater runoff, sewage spills, and other sources cause periodic closures and warnings at many Southern California beaches. California's beach water quality standards are more stringent than those of many vacation destination states. These standards protect public health. However, beach closures can cause significant losses to regional recreational activity and economies. In order to eliminate or reduce beach closures, the SWRCB

and regional board staffs are implementing the Governor's Clean Beaches Initiative, which draws various regulatory and funding programs and activities together to eliminate the causes of beach closures. The initiative provides \$32.2 million in bond money for projects that eliminate or track the sources of contaminated water flowing to coastal waters.

Accomplishments

1. **Local Projects Funding:** The SWRCB committed \$16.1 million in grant funds to 26 of the 31 agencies identified in Senate Bill 739 to reduce bacterial contamination of beaches.
2. **Rapid Indicator Development:** The SWRCB contracted with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to develop rapid, reliable, and affordable diagnostic tests for measuring pathogens in coastal waters.
3. **Santa Monica Bay Pathogens:** The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board adopted a dry-weather pathogen total maximum daily load (TMDL) for Santa Monica Bay on January 24. The TMDL establishes the bacteria standards during summer dry weather and requires that no more than 3 percent of single samples may exceed the standard during winter dry weather. A wet-weather pathogen TMDL is being prepared.
4. **Orange County Beaches:** The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board adopted general waste discharge requirements on April 26, to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows, a major contributor to Orange County beach closures. An investigation of the California Department of Parks and Recreation sanitary sewer system at Huntington State Beach revealed that this system does not contribute to beach closures.
5. **Mission Bay Pathogens:** The San Diego Regional Water Quality Board developed a work plan for three research projects supporting a coliform bacteria TMDL for Mission Bay. Nearly \$5.5 million from three funding sources will support a virology/epidemiology study, a contaminant dispersion study, and a source identification study.

Priorities

1. **Local Projects Funding:** SWRCB staff will continue assisting agencies in receiving grant funding to reduce bacterial contamination of beaches. The SWRCB will commit another \$7 million in grant funds by December.
2. **Rapid Indicator Development:** The SWRCB's contractor, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, will advertise a request for proposals, select subcontractors, and execute subcontracts by September 30. The subcontractor will be hired to develop affordable diagnostic tests to measure pathogens in coastal waters.
3. **Coastline Advisory Database:** The SWRCB, assisted by U.S. EPA Beach Act grant funds, will develop a coastline advisory database by October. This revised completion date changed because of modifications in the SWIM database. The database provides easy access to water quality data for the public and for local, State, and federal agencies.

4. **Beach Report Card:** The status of beach water quality will be available on the SWRCB Web site. The information will be updated monthly and include statewide and water quality summaries by county and by beach.
5. **Orange County Sanitation District:** The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board will consider whether discharges of advanced primary treated wastewater from the Orange County Sanitation District are the cause of beach postings and closures. The district is considering disinfecting up to 300 million gallons of effluent per day. In July, the regional board will consider amending the district's permit, requiring the district to start a new disinfection program.
6. **Santa Monica Bay:** In August, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board will consider the draft Santa Monica Bay wet weather pathogen TMDL that was released in June. Both the city and county of Los Angeles are developing implementation plans. The city's draft integrated plan for wastewater program calls for collection and reuse of 50 percent of the stormwater runoff by 2020. Staff released the final draft for public review in August. Staff expects to bring the TMDL before the regional board at the September 26 meeting.

Total Maximum Daily Loads

SWRCB Goal 6

TMDLs provide a way of restoring the state's 509 surface waters that are listed as impaired. The TMDL process involves identifying and addressing all sources of a pollutant causing impairment. Ultimately, a permissible amount of the pollutant is allocated to each discharger. Diverse interests in a watershed are involved in drafting and negotiating TMDLs. The SWRCB is pursuing program improvements such as training, guidance, offsets, local agreements, and long-term strategies.

Accomplishments

1. **Impaired Waters Listings-Revision of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List:** SWRCB staff released a draft report recommending a variety of changes to the 303(d) list. Staff recommended approximately 195 additions to the list, 70 deletions, and creation of a watch list with about 180 water bodies. The adoption of the 303(d) list by the SWRCB triggers TMDLs for each listed water body. Testimony on the report was heard at three public meetings in May. It is anticipated that the SWRCB will consider approval of the list in November.
2. **TMDLs Adopted as Basin Plan Amendments:** The regional boards adopted the following TMDL basin plan amendments during the first half of 2002. These TMDLs include implementation plans for the following:
 - Santa Monica Bay pathogen (dry weather) TMDL—Los Angeles.
 - Morro Bay sediment TMDL—Central Coast.

- Chorro Creek sediment TMDL—Central Coast.
 - Los Osos Creek sediment TMDL—Central Coast.
 - Chollas Creek diazinon TMDL—San Diego.
3. **TMDLs Submitted to U.S. EPA:** The TMDLs listed below were submitted to or approved by U.S. EPA. Development of TMDLs requires technical analyses of the water quality impairment problem, sources of the problem, and reduction in pollutant loads from the sources necessary to resolve the problem. TMDLs are established via basin plan amendments and include implementation plans in addition to the results of these technical analyses. In some cases, the results of the technical analyses are reported to U.S. EPA before or in lieu of establishing the TMDLs as basin plan amendments with implementation plans. These TMDLs are technical reports that do not have implementation plans with the basin plan amendments:
- Lower San Joaquin River selenium TMDL (approved), salt TMDL (submitted), and boron TMDL (submitted)—Central Valley.
 - Clear Lake mercury TMDL (submitted)—Central Valley.
 - Upper Sacramento River cadmium, copper, and zinc TMDLs (submitted)—Central Valley.
 - Newport Bay/San Diego Creek diazinon, chlorpyrifos, and selenium TMDLs (approved)—Santa Ana.
 - Calleguas Creek chloride TMDL (approved)—Los Angeles.

Priorities

1. **Impaired Waters Listing for 2002 and Policy Development:** The SWRCB will consider adopting the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) list at its September workshop and board meeting. The list will be sent to the U.S. EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) by October 1. The SWRCB started developing a policy for listing and delisting impaired water bodies pursuant to the Clean Water Act section 303(d). Issues addressed include acceptable data quality, criteria for prioritizing listed water bodies, and public notice procedures.
2. **TMDLs Scheduled for Adoption as Basin Plan Amendments:**
 - Santa Monica Bay pathogen (wet-weather) TMDL—Los Angeles.
 - Santa Clara River chlorides TMDL—Los Angeles.
 - Los Angeles River pathogens and nutrients TMDLs—Los Angeles.
 - Malibu Creek pathogens and nutrients TMDLs—Los Angeles.
 - San Francisco Bay mercury TMDL—San Francisco Bay.

- Newport Bay/San Diego Creek diazinon and chlorpyrifos TMDLs—Santa Ana.
 - Morro Bay pathogen TMDL—Central Coast.
 - San Lorenzo River sediment TMDL—Central Coast.
 - Las Tablas Creek and Lake Nacimiento metals TMDLs—Central Coast.
 - Chorro Creek and Los Osos Creek nutrient TMDLs—Central Coast.
 - Clear Lake mercury TMDL—Central Valley.
 - Indian Creek Reservoir phosphorous TMDL—Lahontan.
3. **TMDLs Scheduled to be Submitted to U.S. EPA:**
- Mattole Watershed temperature and sediment TMDLs—North Coast.
 - Urban Creeks pesticides/diazinon TMDL-San Francisco Bay.
 - San Francisco Bay PCB TMDL-San Francisco Bay.
 - Tomales Bay pathogens TMDL-San Francisco Bay.

Surface Water Cleanups

Cal/EPA Goal 2

California's surface waters support many beneficial uses, including drinking, swimming, fishing, and aquatic life, as well as agricultural and industrial uses. When the concentration of a pollutant in a river, lake, or other surface waters exceeds standards, cleanup actions are necessary to restore water quality. That, in turn, restores the beneficial use. These efforts are in addition to cleanups taken through TMDLs.

SWRCB Goal 2: Surface waters are safe for drinking, fishing, swimming and support healthy ecosystems and other beneficial uses.

Accomplishments

1. **Contaminated Sediments Cleanup—San Diego Bay:** The San Diego Regional Water Quality Board approved a work plan by the U.S. Navy for contaminated sediment remediation at the mouth of Chollas Creek and the mouth of the 7th Street Channel in San Diego Bay.
2. **New River:** Colorado River Basin Regional Board staff participated in bi-national meetings and tours focusing on pollution abatement of the New River in Mexico.

Priorities

1. **Contaminated Sediments Cleanups:**

- **Delta.** The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board will consider adopting a cleanup plan for three toxic hot spots in the Delta from agricultural and urban use of chlorpyrifos and diazinon. The regional board is required to adopt a cleanup plan by December and forward it to the SWRCB for adoption.
 - **San Diego Bay.** The San Diego Regional Water Quality Board will issue a cleanup and abatement order setting cleanup levels for the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company and Southwest Marine for contaminated sediment remediation in the San Diego Bay next to their shipyard leaseholds. The regional board will consider agreements with the Navy, the City of San Diego, and the Port of San Diego for remediation work plans.
2. **Acid Mine Drainage—Leviathan Mine:** The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board will treat acid mine drainage at the Leviathan Mine to prevent overflows in the 2002–03 winter season.
3. **Rosamond Dry Lake—Edwards Air Force Base:** The regional board will adopt a schedule to eliminate overflows from Los Angeles County Sanitation District’s (No. 14) Lancaster wastewater treatment facility that interferes with operations at Edwards Air Force Base.

Water Quality and Surface Water Permits

Cal/EPA Goal 2

SWRCB Goals 2 and 6

The SWRCB is devoting efforts to achieving legislative mandates on waivers, SB 390 (Alpert, Chapter 686, Statutes of 1999), incorporating numeric standards for toxics in permits, and supporting new federal requirements for stormwater permits. SB 390 requires the regional boards to review and adjust the regulation of discharges that have previously received waivers. Under SB 390, all existing waivers of waste discharge requirements will expire on January 1, 2003. A draft statewide plan was distributed to the regional boards.

Accomplishments

1. **Waivers—Senate Bill 390 Implementation:** Two public workshops were held concerning waivers for irrigation return water and stormwater discharges from irrigated lands. The SWRCB is developing a model general order for low-threat discharges.
2. **Recycled Water Discharges to Lake Elsinore:** The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board adopted permits for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District to allow discharges to Lake Elsinore. This action was contrary to nutrient control issues (to be addressed through a TMDL). Water levels in the lake are declining and significant adverse impacts on water contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and other beneficial uses are at stake.

3. **City of Stockton:** The Central Valley Regional Board adopted a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the City of Stockton Wastewater Treatment Plant that requires significant upgrades of the facility. The permit addressed the impaired quality of the San Joaquin River, the presence of threatened and endangered species, and complex Delta hydrologic flows.
4. **Blythe Energy Project:** The Colorado River Basin Regional Board adopted a permit for the BEP on June 26. The Blythe Energy Project is a natural gas-fired combined cycle electrical generation power plant fueled by the El Paso natural gas transmission line.
5. **Major Stormwater Permits:**
 - Los Angeles Stormwater permit petitions: The SWRCB received seven petitions challenging the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's municipal stormwater permit from various cities in Los Angeles County. The SWRCB denied a stay on April 24 and will issue an order in the fall.
 - The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board reissued the Santa Clara County municipal stormwater permit.
 - The Santa Ana Regional Board reissued the San Bernardino County municipal stormwater permit.
 - Southern Orange County and San Diego County: the San Diego Regional Board reissued the municipal stormwater permit for southern Orange County. The board approved a model standard urban stormwater mitigation plan, developed by the San Diego County permittees, on June 12.

Priorities

1. **Effluent-Dominated Waters—City of Vacaville Municipal Discharge Permit Petition:** A decision is expected on a petition by the City of Vacaville regarding discharges of secondary-treated effluent to Old Alamo Creek, an effluent-dominated stream (waters with little or no dilution capacity) in Solano County. Through this petition, the SWRCB is considering the statewide proper application of water quality standards for this type of setting.
2. **East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD):** The SWRCB will consider an order responding to a petition on EBMUD's sewage treatment plant permit. The petition raises numerous permit issues, including numeric effluent limitations that could affect sewage treatment operators throughout the Bay Area.
3. **Waivers—SB 390 Implementation:** SWRCB staff will develop a strategy for handling irrigation return water discharges. A public workshop will be held on waivers for timber harvesting operations. The plan will be finalized after strategies for dealing with all categories of waivers have been decided. A model general order for low-threat discharges will be completed. The following provide some waiver situations of significance:

- Agricultural drainage. As a result of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board review of its waiver policy on irrigation return waters, a monitoring program will be carried out in the Central Valley to define water quality effects of irrigation return flows.
- Dairies. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board is reviewing options for the regulation of the number of dairies that have received waivers.
- Retail fertilizer and pesticide rinse water facilities. The Central Valley Regional Board is reviewing the waiver policy and may prepare updated waivers.
- Timber harvest waivers. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Board will consider reissuing, rescinding, or adopting these waivers.
- On-site disposal systems (septic tanks). The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board will consider updating the on-site sewage disposal system waiver resolution for Marin County.

4. Statewide Stormwater Permits:

- General industrial activities stormwater permit. The SWRCB will reissue this permit covering thousands of industrial operations. The permit has been delayed for evaluation of monitoring issues. SWRCB workshops will be held on the permit in Northern and Southern California by December.
- General stormwater permit for small municipal separate storm sewer systems. The SWRCB will issue a statewide general stormwater permit covering smaller municipalities by November. At the same time, the SWRCB will consider issuing a policy for designation of small municipalities.
- General construction activities stormwater permit (1–5 acres). The existing general construction permit covering projects greater than five acres will be amended to cover the 1–5-acre projects. The SWRCB will adopt this amended permit in December.
- Retail gasoline outlets. The SWRCB will hold a hearing on a petition regarding the regulation of retail gasoline outlets in municipal stormwater permits and whether outlets should be required to treat runoff.

5. Major Stormwater Permits:

- The North Coast Regional Water Quality Board will adopt the municipal stormwater permit for the City of Santa Rosa including unincorporated areas near the City of Santa Rosa.
- The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board will consider reissuing the Riverside County municipal stormwater permit.

- The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board plans to update the Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Mateo municipal stormwater permits requiring treatment measures and flow controls.
 - The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board will consider revising the Stockton, Sacramento, and Modesto municipal stormwater permits to include requirements on new development.
 - The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board will consider a renewed stormwater permit for Riverside County.
6. **Eradication of Non-Native Species—Silver King Creek, Alpine County:** The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board will consider whether to allow the California Department of Fish and Game to use rotenone to eradicate non-native species in Silver King Creek to restore native Paiute Cutthroat trout in the watershed.
 7. **San Diego Bay Dischargers:** The San Diego Regional Board will issue NPDES permits to regulate industrial, commercial, and residential areas at three Navy facilities (Point Loma, North Island, and 32nd Street Naval Yard) near San Diego Bay. The regional board will reissue NPDES permits for three San Diego Bay shipyards: National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, Southwest Marine, and Continental Maritime.
 8. **Camp Pendleton:** The San Diego Regional Water Quality Board will adopt an NPDES permit for the discharge of wastewater from the U.S. Marine Corps base, Camp Pendleton, to the City of Oceanside's ocean outfall.
 9. **Pacific Gas and Electric Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant:** The Central Coast Regional Board is scheduled to complete the settlement agreement and consider adopting an NPDES permit for once-through cooling water in late 2002.
 10. **Duke Energy, Morro Bay Power Plant:** The Central Coast Regional Board is scheduled to consider an NPDES permit for this plant in November. Discharge issues regarding a closed cooling system versus an open system have delayed issuing this permit.

Groundwater Protection and Cleanups

Cal/EPA Goals 2 and 3: Groundwater that is safe for drinking and other beneficial uses.

SWRCB Goal 3: Groundwater is safe for drinking and other beneficial uses.

Roughly 40 percent of the state's drinking water comes from groundwater resources. These resources are threatened by a legacy of handling materials and wastes. The problems include leaking underground storage tanks containing fuel or solvents and disposing of spent chemicals. Containment and cleanup of groundwater contaminants, improvements in waste and material handling practices, the use of graphical information systems, and using the best science available are components of the state's groundwater protection program.

Accomplishments

1. **Field-Based Research:** In May, the SWRCB's contractor (UC Davis) delivered the underground storage tank field-based research project report on evaluation of new and upgraded underground storage tanks. Senate Bill 989 (Sher, Chapter 812, Statutes of 1999) required the report. The research used enhanced leak-detection testing to evaluate the performance of underground storage tank system designs in preventing vapor and liquid releases. The project included 182 systems at 55 facilities in Sacramento, Yolo, Riverside, and San Diego counties. All systems complied with current underground storage tank design and construction requirements. Only one leaked any liquid, but research showed that more than 60 percent leaked small amounts of vapors.
2. **Local Oversight Program Agencies and Geotracker:** SWRCB staff has provided 15 of the 20 local oversight program agencies with Geotracker electronic case management tools. Oversight program staff is using the system to manage cases pertaining to leaking underground storage tank cases.
3. **Chromium VI:** The regional boards are investigating and cleaning up sites where past industrial operations have contaminated groundwater with chromium VI.
 - South Gate, Bell Gardens, and Cudahy municipal wells. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board and the Water Replenishment District have narrowed down source areas of chromium VI contamination from municipal wells. Upcoming efforts include a field chemical use survey, 153 site inspections, and well testing.
 - San Fernando Valley. Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board investigations showed that of the 255 suspected contaminated sites, 105 sites need further assessment while the remaining 150 will be closed. Regional board staff intends to transfer those 105 sites into the State Cost Recovery Program. Cleanup and abatement orders with mandatory cost recovery stipulations will be issued.
 - Hinkley, San Bernardino County. Pacific Gas and Electric resumed groundwater remediation using a treatment system that avoids the transfer of chromium VI to the air.
4. **West College and Clover Drive, Santa Rosa:** The North Coast Regional Water Quality Board staff sampled 140 wells, maintained 30 drinking water filtration systems, and routed 15 houses to the City of Santa Rosa water system as follow-up on PCE and TCE contamination.

Priorities

1. **Chromium VI in Hinkley, San Bernardino County:** Pacific Gas and Electric will begin remediation to control the chromium VI plume and submit a work plan for long-term remediation.
2. **Equilon-Bakersfield Refinery Company:** The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board will issue a cleanup and abatement order to Bakersfield Refinery to cover

investigation/remediation and the adjoining sales terminal. Cleanup will include a large MTBE plume.

3. **MTBE Sampling at Operating Stations:** San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board staff will send requests to high-threat operating stations in Santa Clara Valley requiring periodic groundwater monitoring for MTBE.
4. **Moffett Federal Airfield:** The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board anticipates signing a record of decision for remediation and closure of the airfield's 9-acre solid waste landfill.

Monitoring and Assessment

Cal/EPA Goal 7: Continuous improvement and application of science and technology.

SWRCB Goal 6

Water quality monitoring and assessment provides vital information to determine the health of waters, trends in water quality conditions, the need for follow-up investigations, and the basis for prescribing waste discharge limitations in permits.

Accomplishments

1. **Impaired Waters Listings for 2002:** The SWRCB released a draft staff report containing the statewide Clean Water Act section 303(d) list in early April. In May the board held hearings on the draft.
2. **Groundwater Monitoring:** The SWRCB has convened an interagency task force and public advisory committee to develop the comprehensive groundwater quality-monitoring plan mandated by AB 599 (Liu, Chapter 522, Statutes of 2001 [part 2.76, section 10780, division 6 of the California Water Code]). Groundwater quality sampling and age dating were completed in the Santa Clara, Livermore-Amador Valley, Fremont, San Jacinto, and Modesto areas. Voluntary sampling of domestic wells was completed in a pilot area in the Sierra foothills.

Priorities

1. **Water Quality Assessment:** The SWRCB will submit (by October 1) a biennial report on the state's water quality to U.S. EPA as required by the federal Clean Water Act. This report will provide water quality information to the public and will be incorporated into the U.S. EPA's national water quality inventory report to Congress. The report will include listings of impaired water bodies as required by the act.
2. **Groundwater Monitoring:** The SWRCB will prepare a draft comprehensive groundwater quality-monitoring plan mandated by AB 599. Groundwater quality sampling and age-dating will be completed in the Sacramento and Fresno areas. Voluntary water quality sampling of domestic wells will be conducted in Yuba County. Results of sampling 10 percent of municipal solid waste landfills for radioactive constituents will be compiled.

Water Quality Control Plans

SWRCB Goal 6

Water quality control plans provide a general plan for achieving water quality goals and objectives. These plans are the basis for the permits issued to dischargers. Typically, these plans define the waters and the beneficial uses to be protected, list the allowable pollutant levels, and set out the measures to achieve these goals. Regional boards develop these plans for major watersheds. The SWRCB develops plans to address water quality issues that are common to more than one region. Water quality control plans are reviewed every three years and are subject to SWRCB approval.

Accomplishments

1. **Site-Specific Objective Guidance Document:** The SWRCB contracted with the Great Lakes Environmental Center to develop a site-specific objective guidance document. A site-specific objective is used to set standards for waters that are different from waters covered by statewide standards. A preliminary draft was received on May 15.
2. **Sediment Quality Objectives (SQO):** A negotiated settlement agreement and compliance schedule requires the SWRCB to do the following:
 - The SWRCB will adopt a scoping document and any necessary revisions to the board's 1991 work plan by June 30, 2003.
 - The SWRCB will complete and circulate for public comment a draft proposal for all SQOs and related implementation policies by August 5, 2005.
 - The SWRCB will adopt and submit to the Office of Administrative Law all final SQOs and related implementation policies by February 28, 2007.
3. **Copper and Nickel Site Specific Objectives:** The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board adopted a basin plan amendment for site-specific water quality objectives and implementation actions for copper and nickel for the southern reaches of San Francisco Bay. This action concludes two decades of efforts to resolve the complex technical and policy issues affecting these reaches.

Priorities

1. **Site-Specific Objectives Guidance Document:** The SWRCB expects to release these objectives in October.
2. **Sediment Quality Objectives:** The SWRCB will contract with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to develop sediment quality objectives by November.
3. **Nitrogen/Total Dissolved Solids Task Force:** The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board will consider basin plan amendments revising groundwater basin boundaries and water quality objectives for nitrogen and salinity.

4. **Mojave River Watershed:** The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board will consider basin plan amendments modifying beneficial uses of Searles Lake, Paiute Ponds, Amargosa Creek, and Laurel Pond. The regional board will also consider providing exemptions to a prohibition allowing reclamation activities in the Mojave River watershed.
5. **Central Valley Basin Plan:** The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board will consider basin plan amendments revising the bacteria objective for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin (in July) and the Tulare Lake Basin (in October).
6. **Deer Creek:** In July, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board will consider adopting site-specific pH and turbidity objectives for Deer Creek in El Dorado and Sacramento counties. The regional board will consider site-specific temperature objectives for Deer Creek in El Dorado and Sacramento counties by December.
7. **Cathedral City:** The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Board will consider a basin plan amendment prohibiting the use of septic systems in the cove area of Cathedral City.

Nonpoint Source Control

SWRCB Goal 6

An assessment of water quality conditions in California shows that nonpoint sources of pollution have the greatest effect on water quality. Nonpoint sources are not readily controlled by conventional means. Activities such as cultivating or developing land contribute to pollutants in runoff. Controlling nonpoint sources requires using preventive plans and practices by those directly involved in those activities and by those overseeing such activities.

Accomplishments

1. **Nonpoint Source Progress Report:** The first biennial progress report on California's efforts to prevent and control nonpoint source pollution was submitted to U.S. EPA and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration in April.

Priorities

1. **Compliance Assistance:** In September, the SWRCB will release compliance assistance guidance for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, pursuant to SB 227 (Alpert, Chapter 560, Statutes of 1999).
2. **Regulations for On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems:** In December, the SWRCB will release draft regulations for permitting and operating on-site systems (for example, septic tanks) AB 885 (Jackson, Chapter 781, Statutes of 2000 [Water Code section 13290]) requires the SWRCB to adopt these regulations by January 1, 2004.

Compliance Assurance and Enforcement

Enforcement is the foundation of regulatory programs; violations must be corrected. Effective enforcement fosters compliance and holds violators accountable. To reinforce their obligations, the SWRCB and regional boards have launched initiatives to carry out fair, firm, and consistent enforcement of water quality and water rights laws and regulations.

Accomplishments

1. **Statewide Water Quality Enforcement Policy:** The Water Board adopted this policy on February 19. The policy identifies priority violations, enforcement alternatives, procedures for calculating penalties, criteria for supplemental environmental projects, and procedures for addressing environmental justice. The SWRCB submitted the enforcement policy to the Office of Administrative Law for approval in June.
2. **Report to the Legislature on the Enforcement Activities of the Regional Boards:** The SWRCB submitted its report to the Legislature on the Enforcement Activities of the Regional Boards per Water Code Section 13385 (n). This report details the violations of NPDES permits for discharges to surface water and the formal and informal enforcement actions for those violations.

Some of the major findings regarding violations and enforcement actions are:

- Twenty percent reduction in the number of NPDES violations from the previous year.
- Forty percent reduction in the number of significant NPDES violations from the previous year.
- Sixty-eight percent of the violations during this reporting period are from facilities that discharge municipal/domestic waste. These facilities account for only 16 percent of the total number of facilities.
- Special districts and cities account for a disproportionate share of the recorded violations. Special districts had 28 percent of the violations and constitute 9 percent of the discharger population. Cities had 32 percent of the violations and constitute 13 percent of the discharger population.
- Enforcement response to violations by the regional boards is approximately the same as the previous year.

Financial Assistance

Cal/EPA Goal 5: Reduce or eliminate the disproportionate impacts of pollution on low-income and minority populations.

The SWRCB assists communities in eliminating unacceptable human health and ecological risks because of exposure from hazardous substances and other potentially harmful agents. State assistance helps reduce or eliminate the disproportionate impacts of pollution on low-income and

minority populations. About 70 percent of the SWRCB annual budget is comprised of funds that are passed on in the form of financial assistance. These funds provide grants for cleaning leaking underground fuel tanks and loans and grants for wastewater treatment facilities, water recycling projects, nonpoint source projects, watershed projects, and other projects.

Accomplishments

1. **State Revolving Fund Loan Program—Leveraging the State Revolving Fund:**
Repayments from existing loans are leveraged to guarantee a new revenue bond. The advantage is that more loans can be made in this manner than with a direct loan program. The SWRCB successfully leveraged the State Revolving Fund so an additional \$300 million is available to fund projects that will benefit water quality.
2. **Proposition 13 Bond Funds:**
 - Water recycling construction projects. During the first half of 2002, the SWRCB committed funding to 12 construction projects totaling \$43 million in grants and \$38 million in loans.
 - Watershed, Nonpoint Source, and Coastal Nonpoint Source Programs. The SWRCB finalized contracts for 29 of the 64 projects (\$21.8 million) selected in the first year of funding. Projects selected from second year pre-proposals have been requested to submit full proposals (\$82 million). The SWRCB adopted emergency regulations for the \$10 million pesticide management program for the nonpoint source program at its June board meeting. The board approved the remaining 12 projects (\$123.4 million) to be funded from the Southern California integrated watershed program.
3. **Federal Nonpoint Source Grants:** The SWRCB requested proposals from applicants for water quality planning and nonpoint source pollution management grants. During the federal fiscal year 2003, \$6.4 million will become available. For federal fiscal year 2002 grants, contract negotiations started with applicants for \$900,000 in planning funds and \$5.5 million in nonpoint source funds.

Priorities

1. **Proposition 13 Bond Funds:**
 - Water recycling construction projects. The SWRCB anticipates funding five construction projects with \$9.5 million from the funds available.
 - Watershed, Nonpoint Source, and Coastal Nonpoint Source programs. The SWRCB will finalize the 35 contracts for projects selected in the first year of funding (\$21.8 million). The SWRCB will review the full proposals submitted for the second round of funding (\$82 million) and establish a priority list of projects. SWRCB staff will release a request for proposals for projects to be funded from the \$10 million pesticide management program established in the nonpoint source program and will also develop a request for proposals for the third round of funding.

2. **Federal Nonpoint Source Grants:** The SWRCB will review the proposals and establish a priority list of projects submitted in accordance with the federal fiscal year 2003 request for proposals published for federal planning and nonpoint source grant programs (\$6.4 million). Staff will finalize contracts selected for the federal fiscal year 2002 funding.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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